USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The buildings, grounds and facilities of Tacoma School District No. 10 are primarily to serve the educational needs of the students of the district. No other use shall be permitted to interfere with this primary purpose. Authorization for use of school facilities shall not be considered endorsement or approval of the activity, group or organization or the purposes it represents.

School facilities are purchased with public funds; therefore, facilities will be made available to the public. Activities directly related to the educational programs of the district shall have first priority in the use of facilities.

The board of directors may authorize non-commercial Washington state exempt, non-profit organizations and groups to utilize school facilities at no cost, or on a cost reimbursement basis if their use is required beyond normal working hours. This category includes groups and organizations dedicated to promotion of education, and general welfare activities of the community.

The Tacoma School District No. 10 does not wish to compete unfairly with private enterprise and therefore reserves the right to reject any applications for use of district facilities when it believes a commercial facility should be patronized.

The intent of this policy is to provide a service to the community but not to compete with local business establishments.

For purposes of prioritizing use of facilities, the following order of priority shall apply:

1. Official district or school-related programs or activities and district or school-oriented groups.

2. Non-profit youth organizations and school or employee-oriented groups within the district boundaries that provide services to district students or employees and other government entities, so long as fees or tuition are not charged to participants by the government entity. Priority for use within this category shall be based upon shared facility use agreement(s) with the Metropolitan Park District, and then others within this classification.

3. Other non-profit, civic and service groups not addressed in Paragraph 2, including non-profit organizations and non-commercial youth activities that are based outside the district.

4. Non-commercial groups that have a primary focus on meeting the needs of youth and/or adults in the community.
5. Commercial and other functions.

For rental purposes, the following fees/costs shall apply:

1. Official or school-related programs or activities may use facilities without charge.

2. For groups within Paragraph 2 above, when a facility is used outside of regular custodial hours, or the district incurs extra utility, cleaning, staff or other costs, a rental fee shall be charged to recoup those costs.

3. For groups within Paragraphs 3 and 4 above, a rental fee shall be charged in excess of costs incurred. Such excess charges may be waived when a service club or other non-profit entity is raising funds for charitable purposes. If a college or university is offering a course and charging tuition and the course is not primarily for district students or staff, its use shall fall under this category.

4. Commercial enterprises, including profit-making organizations and business-related enterprises, as well as groups that do not fit within the other paragraphs, shall be charged a rate in accordance with the fee structure outlined in Regulation 4260R.

Non-profit groups that typically have their own facilities including, but not limited to lodges, veterans groups, churches and granges, may use district facilities on a regular, but temporary, basis.

The superintendent is authorized to establish Regulations for use of facilities consistent with this policy, including, but not limited to, rental rates, supervisory requirements, restrictions, and security.

Legal References: AGO 1973 No. 26 Initiative No. 276 – School districts – Use of school facilities for presentation of Programs – Legislature – Elections

RCW 28A.320.510 Night schools, summer schools, meeting, use of facilities for
28A.335.150 Permitting use and rental of playgrounds, athletic fields, or athletic facilities

Adoption Date: 1/12/06